

## WIG

- Cherish thy hasten'd widowhood with the gold  
Of matrimonial treason: so farewell. *Milton.*
2. Estate settled on a widow. Not in use.  
For that dowry, I'll assure her of  
Her widowhood, be it that she survives me,  
In all my lands. *Shakef. Taming of the Shrew.*
- WIDOWHUNTER. *n. f.* [widow and hunter.] One who courts  
widows for a jointure.  
The widowhunters about town often afford them great di-  
version. *Addison's Spectator.*
- WIDOWMAKER. *n. f.* [widow and maker.] One who deprives  
women of their husbands.  
It grieves my soul  
That I must draw this metal from my side  
To be a widowmaker. *Shakef. King John.*
- WIDOW-WAIL. *n. f.* [widow and wail.] A plant.  
It hath a flower consisting of one leaf, which is deeply di-  
vided into three parts: the cup of the flower is also of one  
leaf, divided into three segments; the fruit consists of three  
hard berries closely joined together; in each of which is con-  
tained one oblong seed; to which may be added, it hath the  
appearance of a shrub, and the leaves are small and oblong.  
*Miller.*
- WIDTH. *n. f.* [from wide.] Breadth; wideness. A low word.  
For the width of the mortels gage this side, then for the  
tenant, gage on that end of the quarter you intend the tenant  
shall be made. *Moxon.*
- Let thy vines in intervals be set,  
Indulge their width, and add a roomy space,  
That their extremest lines may scarce embrace. *Dryden.*
- To WIELD. *v. a.* [wield, Saxon; to manage in the hand.]  
To use with full command, as a thing not too heavy for the  
holder.  
Bare Hungarian wight, wilt thou the spigot wield. *Shakef.*  
His looks are full of peaceful majesty,  
His hand by nature fram'd to wear a crown,  
His hand to wield a scepter, and himself  
Likely in time to bless a regal throne. *Shakef.*
- There is that hand bolden'd to blood and war,  
That must the sword in wondrous actions wield. *Daniel.*
- They are in the dark before they are aware; and then they  
make a noise only with terms; which, like too heavy weap-  
ons that they cannot wield, carry their strokes beyond their  
aim. *Digby on Bedies.*
- The least of whom could wield  
These elements, and arm him with the force  
Of all their regions. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
- Part wield their arms, part curb the foaming flood. *Milton.*
- If Rome's great senate could not wield that sword,  
Which of the conquer'd world had made them lord;  
What hope had ours, while yet their power was new,  
To rule victorious armies, but by you?  
He worthiest, after him, his sword to wield, *Waller.*  
Or wear his armour, or sustain his shield. *Dryden.*
- WIELDY. *adj.* [from wield.] Manageable.
- WIER. *adj.* [from wire.]
1. Made of wire: it were better written wiry.  
Your gown going off, such beauteous state reveals,  
As when through flow'ry meads th' hill's shadow steals;  
Off with that wiry coronet, and shew  
The hairy diadem which on your head doth grow. *Donne.*
2. Drawn into wire.  
Polymnia shall be drawn with her hair hanging loose about  
her shoulders, resembling wiry gold. *Peacham on Drawing.*
3. [From wir, a pool.] Wet; wearish; moist. Obsolete.
- Where but by chance a silver drop hath fall'n,  
Ev'n to that drop ten thousand wiry friends  
Do glew themselves in lovable grief. *Shakef.*
- WIFE. *n. f.* Plural wives [wif, Saxon; wiff, Dutch.]  
A woman that has a husband.  
Your claim, fair sister,  
I bar it in the interest of my wife. *Shakef. King Lear.*
- There's no bottom, none  
In my voluptuousness: your wives, your daughters,  
Your matrons and your maids could not fill up  
The cistern of my lust. *Shakef. Macbeth.*
- Why saidst thou, she is my sister? so I might have taken  
her to me to wife. *Gen. xii. 19.*
- The wife, where danger or dishonour lurks,  
Safest and seemliest by her husband stays. *Milton.*
- The wife her husband murders, he the wife. *Dryden.*
- Fond of his friend, and civil to his wife. *Pope.*
2. It is used for a woman of low employment.  
Strawberry wives lay two or three great strawberries at the  
mouth of their pot, and all the rest are little ones. *Bacon.*
- Wig. *n. f.* Wig being a termination in the names of men signifies  
war, or else a hero, from piga, a word of that signification.  
*Gibson's Camden.*
- Wig. *n. f.* [Contracted from perwig.]  
1. False hair worn on the head.  
Triumphing Tories and desponding Whigs  
Forget their feuds, and join to save their wig. *Swift.*

## WIL

2. A sort of cake.
- WIGHT. *n. f.* [wigt, Saxon.] A person; a being. *Asinforth.*  
Belshew the witch! with venomous wights the slays,  
Tediuous as hell; but flies the grasp of love,  
With wings more momentary swift than thought. *Shakef.*
- This would below did need one wight,  
Which might thereof distinguish ev'ry part. *Davies.*
- This meaner wights, of trust and credit bare,  
Not so respected, could not look effect. *Daniel.*
- A wight he was, whose very sight would  
Entitle him mirror of knighthood. *Hudibras.*
- The water flies all taste of living wight,  
How couldst thou suffer thy devoted knight,  
On thy own day, to fall by foe oppress'd,  
The wight of all the world who lov'd thee best. *Dryden.*
- His station he yielded up to a wight as disagreeable as him-  
self. *Addison's Guardian.*
- WIGHT. *adj.* Swift; nimble. Out of use.
- He was so wimple and so wighty that he was  
From bough to bough he leaped light,  
And oft the pumies latched. *Spenser's Pastoral.*
- WIGHTLY. *adv.* [from wight.] Swiftly; nimbly.
- Her was her, while it was day-light,  
But now her is a most-wretched wight;  
For day that was is wighty-paity,  
And now at last the night doth last. *Spenser.*
- WILT. An initial in the names of men, signifies strong; nimble;  
lusty; being purely Saxon. *Gibson's Camden.*
- WILD. *adj.* [pile, Saxon; wild, Dutch.]
1. Not tame; not domestic.  
For I am he am born to tame you, Kate,  
And bring you from a wild cat to a kate,  
Conformable as other household kates. *Shakef.*
- Winter's not gone yet, if the wild geese fly that way. *Shak.*
- All beards of the earth since wild. *Milton.*
2. Propagated by nature; not cultivated.  
Whatsoever will make a wild tree a garden tree, will make  
a garden tree to have less core or stone. *Bacon's Natural History.*
- Goose grass or wild tansy is a weed that strong clays are very  
subject to. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
- The wild bee breeds in the flocks of old willows, in which  
they first bore a canal, and furnish afterwards with hangings,  
made of rose leaves: and to finish their work divide the whole  
into several rooms or nests. *Grew's Microscopium.*
3. Defart; uninhabited.  
The wild beast where he wons in forest wild. *Milton.*
4. Savage; uncivilized.
- Affairs that walk,  
As they say spirits do, at midnight, have  
In them a wilder nature, than the business  
That seeks dispatch by day. *Shakef. Henry VIII.*
- Though the inundation destroyed man and beast generally,  
yet some few wild inhabitants of the woods escaped. *Bacon.*
- When they might not converse with any civil men without  
peril of their lives, whither should they fly but into the woods  
and mountains, and there live in a wild and barbarous man-  
ner. *Davies on Ireland.*
- May those already curst Essexian plains,  
Where hasty death and pining sickness reigns,  
Prove as a desert, and none there make stay,  
But savage beasts, or men as wild as they. *Waller.*
5. Turbulent; tempestuous; irregular.  
His passions and his virtues lie confus'd,  
And mixt together in so wild a tumult,  
That the whole man is quite disfigur'd in him. *Addison.*
6. Licentious; ungoverned.  
That wild rout that tore the Thracian bard.  
Valour grown wild by pride, and pow'r by rage,  
Did the true charms of majesty impair:  
Rome by degrees advancing more in age,  
Show'd sad remains of what had once been fair. *Prior.*
7. Inconstant; mutable; fickle.  
In the ruling passion, there alone,  
The wild are constant, and the cunning known. *Pope.*
8. Inordinate; loose.  
Other bars he lays before me,  
My riots past, my wild societies. *Shakef.*
- Besides, thou art a beau; what's that my child?  
A top well-drest, extravagant and wild:  
She that cries herbs has less impertinence,  
And in her calling, more of common sense. *Dryden.*
9. Uncouth; strange.  
What are these,  
So wither'd, and so wild in their attire,  
That look not like th' inhabitants of the earth,  
And yet are on't? *Shakef. Macbeth.*
10. Done or made without any consistent order or plan.  
With mountains, as with weapons, arm'd; they make  
Wild work in heav'n. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
- The sea was very necessary to the ends of providence, and  
would have been a very wild world had it been without.  
*Woodward's Natural History.*
11. Meerly

## WIN

11. Meerly imaginary.  
As universal as these appear to be, an effectual remedy might  
be applied: I am not at present upon a wild speculative pro-  
ject, but such a one as may be easily put in execution. *Swift.*
- WILD. *n. f.* [from the adjective.] A desert; a tract unculti-  
vated and uninhabited.
- We sometimes  
Who dwell this wild, confin'd by want come forth  
To town or village nigh. *Milton's Paradise Regained.*
- This gentle knight  
Forsook his easy couch at early day,  
And to the wood and wilds pursu'd his way. *Dryden.*
- Then Libya first, of all her moisture drain'd,  
Became a barren waste, a wild of sand. *Addison.*
- Is there a nation in the wilds of Africa,  
Amidst the barren rocks and burning sands  
That does not tremble at the Roman name?  
You rais'd these hollow'd walls; the desert smil'd,  
And paradise was open'd in the wild. *Pope.*
- WILD BASIL. *n. f.* [acinus, Lat.] A plant.  
It hath leaves like those of the lesser basil; the cup of the  
flower is oblong and furrow'd; the flowers are produced in  
bunches on the top of little footstalks, which arise from be-  
tween the footstalk of the leaf and the stalk of the plants in  
which it differs from cerpyllum. *Miller.*
- WILD CUCUMBER. *n. f.* [clatarium, Latin] A plant.  
The branches are somewhat like those of the cucumber, but  
have no tendrils; the fruit is prickly, and when ripe bursts  
with great elasticity, and abounds with fetid juice. *Miller.*
- WILD OLIVE. *n. f.* [oleagus, Latin, from olax, an olive, and  
lyer, viter:] This plant hath leaves like those of the chaste  
tree, and a fruit like an olive. *Miller.*
- WILDSERVICE. *n. f.* [cratagus, Lat.] A plant.  
The leaves are single, the flower consists of five leaves,  
which expand in form of a rose. The fruit is small, and  
shaped like a pear, in which are many hard seeds. *Miller.*
- To WILDER. *v. a.* [from wild.] To loose or puzzle in an  
unknown or pathless tract.
- The little courtiers, who ne'er come to know  
The depth of factions, as in mazes go,  
Where interests meet, and cross so oft, that they  
With too much care are wilder'd in the way. *Dryden.*
- Oh thou! who free'st me from my doubtful state,  
Long lost and wilder'd in the maze of fate,  
Be present still. *Pope.*
- WILDERNESS. *n. f.* [from wild.]
1. A desert; a tract of solitude and savageness.  
He travell'd through wide wasteful ground,  
That nought but desert wilderness shew'd all around. *F. Qu.*
- When as the land the faw no more appear,  
But a wild wilderness of waters deep,  
Then 'gan she greatly to lament and weep. *Spenser.*
- O my poor kingdom, sick with civil blows!  
When that my care could not withhold thy riots,  
What wilt thou do when riot is thy care?  
O, thou wilt be a wilderness again,  
Peopled with wolves, thy old inhabitants. *Shakef.*
- But who can always on the billows lie?  
The wat'ry wilderness yields no supply. *Waller.*
- All those animals have been obliged to change their woods  
and wildernesses for lodgings in cities. *Arbut. & Pope.*
2. The state of being wild or disorderly. Not in use.
- The paths and bow'rs, doubt not, but our joint hands  
Will keep from wilderness with ease. *Milton.*
- WILDFIRE. *n. f.* [wild and fire.] A composition of inflam-  
mable materials, easy to take fire, and hard to be extin-  
guish'd.
- When thou rann'st up Gadhill in the night to catch my  
horse, I did think thou had'st been an ignis fatuus, or a ball  
of wildfire. *Shakef.*
- Though brimstone, pitch, wildfire, burn equally, and are  
hard to quench, yet they make no such fire as gun-  
powder. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
- Yet shall it in his boiling stomach turn  
To bitter poison, and like wildfire burn;  
He shall cast up the wealth by him devour'd.  
No matter in the world so proper to write with as wildfire,  
as no characters can be more legible than those which are read  
by their own light. *Addison's Guardian.*
- In flames, like Semele's, be brought to bed,  
While opening hell spouts wildfire at your head. *Pope.*
- WILDOOSECHASE. *n. f.* A pursuit of something as unlikely  
to be caught as the wildgoose.
- If our wits run the wildgoosechase, I have done; for thou  
hast more of the wildgoose in one of thy wits, than I have in  
my whole five. *Shakef.*
- Let a man consider the time, money, and vexation, that  
this wildgoosechase has cost him, and then say what have I  
gotten to answer all this expence, but loose, giddy frolic?  
*Wardour's Natural History.*
- WILDLING. *n. f.* [wildlingbe, Dut.] A wild four apple.

## WIN

- Ten ruddy wildings in the wood I found,  
And stood on tip-toes, reaching from the ground. *Dryd.*
- The red streak, of all cyder fruit, hath obtained the pre-  
ference, being but a kind of wilding, never pleasing to the  
palate. *Mortimer.*
- The wilding's fibres are contriv'd  
To draw th' earth's purest spirit, and resist  
Its feculence. *Phillips.*
- WILDLY. *adv.* [from wild.]
1. Without cultivation.  
That which grows wildly of itself, is worth nothing. *Morre.*
2. With disorder; with perturbation or distraction.  
Put your discourse into some frame, and start not so wildly  
from my affair. *Shakef.*
- Mrs. Page, at the door, sweating, blowing, and looking  
wildly, would needs speak with you. *Shakef.*
- Young mothers wildly stare with fear oppress'd,  
And strain their helpless infants to their breast. *Dryden.*
- His fever being come to a height, he grew delirious, and  
talked very wildly. *Female Quixote.*
3. Without attention; without judgment.  
As th' unthought accident is guilty  
Of what we wildly do, so we profess  
Ourselves to be the slaves of chance, and flies  
Of every wind that blows. *Shakef.*
4. Irregularly.  
She, wildly wanton, wears by night away  
The sign of all our labours done by day. *Dryden.*
- WILDNESS. *n. f.* [from wild.]
1. Rudeness; disorder like that of uncultivated ground.  
The heath, which was the third part of our plot, I wish to  
be framed, as much as may be, to a natural wildness. *Bac.*
2. Inordinate vivacity; irregularity of manners.  
This same starved justice hath done nothing but prated to  
me of the wildness of his youth, and the feats he hath done  
about Turnbal-freet; and every third word a lie. *Shakef.*
- He is giv'n  
To sports, to wildness, and much company. *Shakef.*
3. Savageness; brutality.  
He came in like a wild man; but such a wildness as shew'd  
his eye-sight had tamed him, full of withered leaves; which  
though they fell not, still threatened falling. *Sidney.*
- Vainly thou tell'st me, what the woman's care  
Shall in the wildness of the wood prepare. *Prior.*
4. Uncultivated state.  
Their wildness lose, and quitting nature's part,  
Obey the rules and discipline of art. *Dryden.*
5. Deviation from a settled course; irregularity.  
A delirium is but a short wildness of the imagination; and  
a settled irregularity of fancy is distraction and madness. *Watts's Log.*
6. Alienation of mind.  
Ophelia, I wish  
That your good beauties be the happy cause  
Of Hamlet's wildness; so shall I hope your virtues  
May bring him to his wonted way again. *Shakef.*
- WILE. *n. f.* [pile, Saxon; wile, Icelandic.] A deceit; a  
fraud; a trick; a stratagem; a practice artful, sly, and in-  
sidious.
- Their leader by his wiles had much obtain'd,  
And done much mischief on the English state.  
My sentence is for open war; of wiles  
More unexpert, I boast not; them let those  
Contrive who need. *Milton.*
- Life essay'd the surest wile,  
Gilding itself with Laura's smile. *Roscommon.*
- So Sforza, curs'd with a too fertile brain,  
Lost by his wiles the pow'r his wit did gain. *Dryd.*
- The heart of man is so full of wiles, artifices, and deceit,  
that there is no guessing at what he is from his speeches. *Addison's Guardian.*
- Wisdom's above suspecting wiles,  
The queen of learning gravely smiles. *Swift.*
- WILFUL. *adj.* [will and full.]
1. Stubborn; contumacious; perverse; inflexible.
2. Done or suffered by design.  
Sthenobæa herself did choak  
With wilful cord, for wanting of her will. *Fairy Queen.*
- Thou to me  
Art all things under heav'n, all places thou,  
Who for my wilful crime art banish'd hence. *Milton.*
- The silent stranger stood amaz'd to see  
Contempt of wealth, and wilful poverty. *Dryden.*
- WILFULLY. *adv.* [from wilful.]
1. Obstinately; stubbornly.  
The mother, who being determinately, least I should say  
of a great lady wilfully, bent to marry her to Demagoras,  
tried all ways which a witty and hard-hearted mother could  
devise. *Sidney.*
- Evil could she conceal her fire, and wilfully perlevered  
she in it. *Sidney.*